

in case of GORDON CASPER,
having been first duly sworn, was examined and
testified as follows?

MR. IAVARONE: Q Will you state your name, please?

A Gordon Casper. 2000-01.

Q Will you spell your last name?

112 γ -A₁ C-a-s-p-o-r

Q. And what is your address? _____

A-404 West Jackson, Springfield.

Q. Mr. Casper, you understand you are testifying here today under a grant of immunity but that grant of immunity does not cover your perjuring yourself before this Grand Jury today, you understand that?

A Correct.

Q: You understand that? (1943, 2001)

A Yes.

Q Mr. Casper, you administered the test, insurance broker's test in Chicago on March 16, 1973?

A I did.

Q. And who accompanied you to Chicago?

A. M. Preer, Jr.

8 Spell his name. *John*

⁸ *ibid.* 1990, 10, 103–104; 1991, 11, 103–104.

Dx 2nd

1 Q And what is his position?

2 A He's an examiner for the Insurance Department
3 Examining Division, Examination Division.

4 Q And how many testing sessions did you have
5 that day? At the moment did anyone leave, you know,
6 A: Two, morning and afternoon.

7 Q When the afternoon session concluded what
8 did you do? Well, now, we was definitely an examiner

9 A Well, about 4:00, 4:30 we packed the bags,
10 the papers in a bag and, briefcase-type bag, and
11 gone to the train. We went back to Springfield on
12 the five something, got in Springfield 8:00 or 8:30.

13 Q Did you go to the office of the Department
14 of Insurance in Springfield?

15 A No, we take the papers home with us and
16 returned them to the office on Monday morning.

17 Q Both you and Mr. Preer had test papers with
18 you?

19 A We each took a bag, I think that day --
20 sometimes one of us took both, sometimes the other
21 one, but I remember we both took a bag.

22 Q What tests did you have?

23 A I had the morning papers.

24 Q Mr. Preer had the afternoon papers?

1 A - Right.

2 Q Now, that test was given on a Friday, is
3 that correct?

4 A That's true.

5 Q Over the weekend did anyone contact you about
6 the tests that were given on the 16th?

7 A Yes. On Sunday morning Mr. Wills called me,
8 Mr. Robert Wills, now, he was formerly an examiner
9 and asked if Mr. Daley had taken the test and I said
10 I'm sure he did but I had the papers there, had a
11 list of papers or list of names that took the exami-
12 nation. I said yes he did.

13 Q What time of the morning was this?

14 A I don't know, 10:00 or so.

15 Q After you told Mr. Wills that William Daley
16 had taken the test what did he say?

17 A Well, he said, "I like to come over and see
18 you", so he did.

19 Q What time did he arrive?

20 A Oh, before noon.

21 So, when he did come he said could he look
22 at the paper, I said okay. So, he looked at the
23 paper and said, "Well, several questions he didn't
24 answer", he said "I'd like to do a favor for a

1 friend of mine and fill them in."

2 I said alright, because I felt that it
3 had been done previously by other people and also
4 I felt Mr. Wills got kind of a raw deal when they
5 let him go, they gave no real explanation of why
6 they let him go other than he wasn't doing his
7 job, which seemed kind of ridiculous, been doing
8 it for four years. ~~ever~~ before he went to see teste

9 Q Now, when Mr. Wills said he was doing it
10 for a friend, did he say which friend?

11 A Yes, he did. He said it was for Senator
12 Partee.

13 Q What did he say in relation to Senator
14 Partee?

15 A He said, at that time, that he was nego-
16 tiating with the Senator about getting another
17 job and he had more or less promised he'd do what
18 he could on this particular paper and he was no
19 longer there, he came to me.

20 Q Mr. Wills said that he promised Senator
21 Partee he'd do whatever he could for this paper?

22 A That's right.

23 Q Did he say when he had talked to Senator
24 Partee, was it after the test or before the test?

1 A: I think shortly after he got fired he said
2 the Senator talked to him.

3 Q: Didn't Mr. Wills say they were concerned about
4 the test?

5 A: Yes.. He said he thought it could be taken
6 care of.

7 Q: Mr. Wills seemed to know that Mr. Daley had
8 done poorly on the test before he went to the test?

9 A: No, I don't believe so but he just wanted
10 to check it and make sure.

11 Q: After Mr. Wills filled in the test --

12 A: Right.

13 Q: -- you saw him? -- and the next day

14 A: Yeah, in my kitchen.

15 Q: All right. After he filled in the answers
16 what did he do? -- I mean, didn't get

17 A: He gave me back the test and I put it in
18 the bag -- well, he checked it first and I figured
19 that he had a passing grade, so, we put it back in
20 the bag and I took it in the office Monday morning.

21 Q: When did you grade that test?

22 A: I would say ~~sometime~~ that week, maybe it
23 was later, I'm not sure, there's 400 papers involved
4 and I think we have another trip down south that week,

1 maybe I didn't get to them until the next week.

2 Q When was the next time you talked to Mr.
3 Wills about this test?

4 A I don't really know. I know that he said
5 he told the Senator that it was all taken care of.

6 Q You remember when he told you that he had
7 talked to Senator Partee?

8 A Probably the following week, I think.

9 Q Did he say he talked to the Senator in
10 person or on the phone?

11 A He didn't say but I think it was probably
12 on the phone, I'm not sure.

13 Q Then, after that, when was the next time
14 you saw Mr. Wills?

15 A Oh, I don't know, I seen him from time to
16 time. We are still friendly, still get together
17 once and awhile.

18 Q When the newspaper story concerning the
19 test broke in the paper this year did you talk
20 with Mr. Wills about the test?

21 A Yes, we did talk.

22 Q What did you talk about?

23 A Well, we felt that there was nothing to
24 worry about.

Q Why is that?

A Well, that the test had been graded and -- well, in spite of the difference in handwriting, I didn't think about that, but it looked pretty much like Mr. Daley's handwriting.

Q What did Mr. Wills say in relation to the test? A Well, he had experienced some concern, naturally, so he talked to the Senator again.

Q And when was this?

A I don't know, that came up a year later, didn't it? It comes to mind.

Q Yes.

A After the examination.

I don't know, seven, eight months, whenever it hit the newspapers.

Q What did he talk to the Senator about?

A He said what do we do, I guess, and the word was just take it easy, play it cool.

Q What do you mean by play it cool?

A Just go along with the tide and say that things were alright.

Q Did Mr. Wills tell you that the Senator told him that?

1 A Yes. I think that's about the whole story.

2 Q All right. What occurred when you and
3 Mr. Wills received subpoenas to appear here before
4 this Grand Jury?

5 A Well, then, he did get worried.

6 Q How did you get worried?

7 A I was bothered because my initials were
8 on the paper and I graded it.

9 Q Did anyone from the Senator's office come
10 to contact you?

11 A No, not me. I think he didn't believe the

12 Q Did they contact Mr. Wills?

13 A I believe so, but I am not sure.

14 Q What did Mr. Wills say?

15 A He said the same thing as before, just take
16 it easy and deny everything.

17 Q He told you to deny everything?

18 A Yeah.

19 Q Well, where was that that he told you to deny
20 everything?

21 A Well, either coming up on the plane or prior
22 to that.

23 Q You came up on a plane?

24 A Yeah.

WPA 13

1 Q Did you talk about this on the plane?

2 A Uh huh.

3 Q What was the conversation on the plane?

4 A Well, the conversation was hopefully that
5 we had nothing to worry about and just tell a story,
6 that I graded it and despite the different ink, this
7 happened many times because people don't answer the
8 questions consecutively and they jump around and
9 very possibly he could have run out of one color and
10 used another.

11 Q After you and Mr. Wills testified before the
12 Grand Jury did Mr. Wills mention the test either on
13 your way home or while you were here in Chicago?

14 A Yeah, he mentioned, we both mentioned it.
15 It was a little rough in front of the Grand Jury
16 and thought that we had come out all right. I said
17 I certainly didn't want to lie and they didn't
18 think I had.

19 Q Did you talk to Mr. Wills when he was, soon
20 after he was indicted?

21 A Yes, I did. I made it a point to go over
22 to his house. He's been recently married and I
23 met his wife once or twice.

24 So, I felt that if that had happened to

him I'd probably go called back again.

So, I tried to prevail upon him to change his story, admit this, that if I was called I would have to tell the truth that I saw him write the questions in and let him do it.

Q. What did Mr. Wills say?

A. Well, he said he was going to talk to his lawyer. Is last Monday?

Q. Did he tell you the name of the lawyer?

A. No, he did know the name of the lawyer himself.

Q. Who got him his lawyer?

A. I assume, and I am pretty certain, it was Senator Partee.

Q. [redacted] did Mr. Wills say if Senator Partee was paying for his lawyer? Is main longer, I do.

A. No, he did not.

Q. Is Mr. Wills in a position to afford an attorney?

A. His wife has a lot of money.

Q. Now, after you told Mr. Wills that you were going to tell the truth --

A. Yeah.

Q. -- he said he was going to get back to the

Senator?

A Right.

Q Did you talk to him again after that?

A I did.

Q And when was that?

A What's today -- today is Thursday, I came up yesterday -- Monday.

Q This last Monday?

A Yes, this Monday, this week.

Q Would that be the 13th?

A Yeah.

Q What was the conversation that day?

A I said that I was going up and that I was going to tell the truth and he said, "I've got a lawyer" or "We'll have one tonight."

I said, "I can't wait much longer, I am going up."

Q I couldn't hear that because of the truck.

A I said that he said that he had a lawyer, he would know who it was and meet with him then. And I said you better hurry because I'm going up tonight -- not tonight, beg your pardon, the next day.

Q Did he say whether he had talked to the

Senator?

A I think he did talk to him by phone.

Q And what did the Senator tell him?

A The Senator said, according to Wills, that nothing to worry about, take it easy.

Q Did you try and contact Senator Partee?

A Yes, I did. I have no idea when I called him.

Q And when was that? I might...

A Tuesday, came up yesterday, so, it was Tuesday.

Q The 14th of May?

A Yes, yeah. I just to pipe him up.

Q How did you try and contact the Senator?

A Well, a friend of mine worked for him a man named Park. So, I called him and he said that they are in session and he said that he would get a message to the Senator and get back in touch with me.

Q Mr. Park, P-a-r-k?

A P-a-r-k.

Q What's his first name?

A His first name is Don.

Q And he is employed by Senator Partee?

A Right.

1
2 Q. Did the Senator get back to you?

3 A. No, Mr. Park got back to me and gave me
4 a telephone number to call and a name.

5 Q. What was the name?

6 A. Attorney in Chicago, Mat Walsh.

7 Q. What did Mr. Park say?

8 A. "The Senator gave me this number to give you,
9 call this man before 10:00 at night."

10 Q. Did Mr. Park tell you what to say to the
11 Grand Jury today?

12 A. No.

13 Q. He didn't ask you to play along or --

14 A. No, he seemed to think that the lawyer
15 would give me the information when I called to talk
16 to him how to proceed.

17 Q. Had you told Mr. Park that you were going to
18 tell the truth up here?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. All right. Did you call that attorney?

21 A. Yes, I did. I spoke to him and identified
22 myself and I said "I've got to go early in the morning"
23 I said "I just wanted you to know, Wills lawyer, I
24 assume you are going to be Wills lawyer", and I believe
he said "Yes", I am not certain "that I was going to

tell the truth."

Q. What did he say?

A. He said, "Well, if that's the way you feel about it", I said, "I'll try not to mention the Senator's name but I don't see how it can be helped."

He said, "All right, go ahead, do what you want."

Q. Has anybody contacted you at all yesterday or today?

A. No. Not of Mr. Partee and either Robert

Q. Did Mr. Wills ever mention to you that Mr. Hall knew that he had changed the Daley test?

A. No, he didn't.

Q. Now, when did you leave the Department of Insurance?

A. Friday, May 13, 1973 -- April 13th, April.

Q. Did you contact Senator Partee and attempt to get a position in State Government?

A. No, I did not. He already helped Mr. Wills, so, I thought he'd done his share.

Q. Who did you contact?

A. Well, I contacted several people.

Q. Who were they?

A. One of which is a friend of mine, Mr. Shea,

13
44

Representative Shea.

Q. How do you spell that.

A. S-h-e-a, I think it is.

Q. Did you tell Mr. Shea you had changed the
test? I, I didn't.

A. No, he never asked me, I don't think Jerry
knew what I did up there.

Q. Who else did you approach and attempt to
get a position?

A. A friend of Mr. Shea's and mine,
~~Ron Cone~~ who is a private attorney.

Q. Spell his name.

A. C-o-n-e.

Q. Anyone else?

A. I'm sure there were others, I tried a lot
of places but I can't think of any specific names.

Q. Did you tell any of them about the test?

A. Tell what?

Q. Did you tell any of them about the Daley
test?

A. Not at that time, not until it came up later.

Q. All right. Who did you tell later?

A. Ron Cone who is a friend of mine as well as
an attorney.

1 Q Anyone else?

2 A No, I don't believe so, to my knowledge.

3 Q You know if Mr. Ron Cone told anyone about
4 it?

5 A No, he didn't.

6 Q Did Mr. Wills ever mention that John Patrick
7 Daley's test to you?

8 A No, that had occurred about a year or two
9 before that, didn't it? I'm not sure about my dates,
10 I wasn't in that particular division, at that time.

11 Q They never mentioned it to you at all?

12 A Not that I recall.

13 Q Other than the Senator Partee's staff did
14 anyone else try to contact you about your testimony,
15 about you testifying here the first time?

16 A No; no, I'm sure they didn't, can't think of
anybody.

17 Q Anybody try and contact you from March 20th
until today other than Senator Partee?

18 A Newspapers,

19 Q Anyone else in State Government?

20 A No.

21 Q Did Mr. Wills ever mention whether William
Daley had asked Partee for help on the test?

1 A He never mentioned it.

2 Q Did Mr. Wills ever say that he got his job
3 because of what he did on the test?

4 A No, he didn't -- you mean his present job --
5 no, I'm sure he felt that it helped.

6 MR. IAVARONE: Any members of the Grand Jury
7 have any questions?

8 A JUROR: Mr. Casper, you said that you thought
9 it was all right to help Mr. Wills change the test
10 because you knew it had been done other times.

11 A I felt that it had been done many times.

12 A JUROR: Can you tell us of any other specific
13 occasions that you knew that had been done?

14 A No, I can't be that specific. After being
15 there six years you get kind of a feel about it and
16 everything was too secret between the bosses, one
17 hand didn't know what the other was doing. I always
18 felt that that had been going on for some time.

19 A JUROR: Do you ever know of any occasions or
20 have you ever been told of any occasions when Ann
21 Shottis had possibly changed a test for someone or
22 helped them pass?

23 A No, I don't know of any specific occasions.

24 A JUROR: Had you heard rumors to this?

1 A Heard rumors all the time in that field,
2 any kind of examination at all there's always
3 rumors that somebody's getting something for
4 nothing or getting passed when he shouldn't.
5 There's always rumors.

6 A JUROR: Mr. Casper, during your years of
7 testing is this the only occasion you have let
8 someone come in to fix a test paper?

9 A Yes, it has but let me correct you, I didn't
10 grade papers very long. I was put in there, one
11 man died and then they promoted Mr. Willis, so, I
12 kind of ran it.

13 A JUROR: And you did it because Willis was a
14 friend of yours?

15 A Yes, really, I felt he gotten a bad deal.

16 MR. IAVARONE: Q. What was your relationship
17 with Mr. Hall

18 A Not too friendly.

19 Q Why was that?

20 A Well, I don't know, we just didn't seem to
21 get along too good.

22 Q Did Mr. Hall ever tell you you were doing a
23 poor job?

24 A About every year when he fills out these

reports he makes some remarks to that extent, yeah. He kept me from getting two, three raises that are supposed to be automatic.

Q What was Mr. Wills relationship with Mr. Hall?

A They were very friendly.

Q Did Mr. Wills ever mention to you Mr. Hall was making \$50.00 payments to him?

Q How was Mr. Preer's relationship with Mr. Hall? May Wills was carrying the book

A All right, friendly enough.

Q Mr. Wills and Mr. Preer friendly?

A Yes, they traveled together a great deal of the time.

Q You know if Mr. Preer ever changed a test?

A I don't know that he ever did, I have no reason to believe that he ever did.

Q Do you know an individual by the name of Vaccarrelio?

A Yes.

Q He was in the Department of Insurance?

A Yes, he came in, I think, shortly after the Oglivie administration.

Q Did Mr. Wills know Mr. Vaccarrelio?

A Mr. Wills had come shortly before Vaccarrelio but he knew him, of course. In fact they seemed to get along pretty well.

Q You know if Mr. Wills ever received any phone calls or messages from Mr. Vaccarrelio regarding tests?

A I'm sure he did because at the time they had numerous problems, mostly in Cook County, with some newer companies and they had to make arrangements for special examination for some of these people. So, naturally Wills was running the examination unit at that time. So, Mr. Vaccarrelio and Mr. Hall both talked to him a lot about planning this.

Q You know if they talked about specific tests?

A You mean specific individuals?

Q Yes.

A I don't believe so. I think it was more general, maybe six people, ten people, twelve people at a time.

Q Would they take those tests, have the six or ten people into Mr. Hall's office?

A Yeah, sometimes they did.

Q You know for what purpose?

A Well, these people had a training program and I think it was Mr. Huber, well Mr. Huber after

Vaccarrelio have gone, that he came, they took these to check to see if these men had learned anything. There were young people off the streets who never had any formal business training and they did check those companies, they were usually agency examinations and they checked those pretty thorough.

Q As a matter of fact Mr. Willis was wined and dined by these people, wasn't he?

A Yes. I did you up with the State

Q How often? To write letters to their

A Well, on a period of a year or so so many of the big life companies went in the fire and casualty company -- Prudential has 1,000 agents or better in Illinois, we have no facilities to give the examinations for that many people, so, these companies with their own office buildings, amphitheaters or examination centers or something, space to give the examination. So, all expenses created was paid by the company to the department. In other words, they paid Wills' room and board and meals and travel expenses rather than having the State do it in return for a special examination.

Q Did anybody ever ask you for a campaign contribution while you were with the Department of

1 Insurance?

2 A Not personally, no.

3 Q Did anybody ever ask you for a list of
4 brokers and agents for campaign purposes?

5 A Yes, Mr. Huber asked me to make up a list
6 of some of the more prominent brokers and agents
7 in the mid-state area, Springfield, Bloomington,
8 Decatur.

9 Q And what did you do with the list?

10 A He was going to write letters to them,
11 soliciting funds.

12 Q Did he? I don't know either.

13 A That I don't know.

14 Q Did he ever ask you to solicit funds from
15 those people?

16 A No, he didn't. I never heard of William Paley.

17 Q Did Mr. Tickner ever ask you to raise money?

18 A No.

19 Q Was Mr. Hall well known among the State
20 Legislators?

21 A Well, he got to be well known because head of
22 the License Division the State Legislators constantly
23 calling on behalf of one of their constituents and
24 asking to help, within reason, to what we could help

then, a man get a license and so forth. Naturally phone calls, particularly when the legislature was in session, got a lot of phone calls.

Q Do you know if Mr. Wills, since March 16, 1973, ever asked anyone else in the department to help someone on a test?

A Not that I knew of, you know, after he left,
did he ask anybody? Whether he was left, killed or ki-

Q Yes. *Q* Now, is that it and nothing.

A Not that I know of.

8. How about before you left?

• H-11. I don't know of any

A Well, I don't know of any then either.

MR. TAVARONE: Any questions?

A JURCR: I'm only interested in knowing how is it, what is it in terms of what you know, Senator Partee would do anything on behalf of William Daley, what is the relationship? ' ' ' ' '

A That is something I can't answer, I don't know, I don't know. I mean, could have been say Sam Jones' paper, maybe, but happened to be Mr. Daley's paper.

A JUROR: Was that the only paper that had anything done that day to it, was the Daley test, sir?

A I don't have any others, no. /

MR. IAVARONE: Q Now, do you know if Mr. Wills called up Mr. Preer to see if he had the Daley test?

A That I don't know, no. He called me and I had the morning papers, I don't know why I had them, I could have had the afternoon, but I didn't, I had the morning papers.

Q Did Mr. Hall ask you for the Daley test?

A I don't know whether it was Mr. Hall or Mr. Huber, one of the two did. I think it was Huber.

Q Did you give him the test?

A Yes.

Q Did they say anything to you?

A No, gave it back and said okay.

Q And when was this?

A After the -- well, after the newspaper article about Heil & Heil Agency, whenever that was.

Q They didn't mention to you any different handwriting?

A Didn't say a word.

Q And this was in '73?

A Yeah.

Q And did you know if Mr. Hall looked at the test, at that time?

A I -- I'm not positive but I feel that he did